

Notes from the Meeting of the Safety Group

Monday 16th August 2021

Present: Paul Webb (Chair), Lea Dodds, Robin Dyos, Helen McMenamin-Smith, Jim Perry, and Liz Swift.

Apologies: Gill Miller and Geraldine Tate. An apology was received from Brenda Wilson after the meeting.

Liz Swift informed those present that as Chair to the Parish Council, she was disappointed that correct procedures had not been followed when the recommendation by the Safety Group for the Local Highways Initiative (LHI) application was under discussion and that if another member felt that a different recommendation should have been made, then this should have been discussed with the Chair of the working group in the first instance, and the Clerk asked to withdraw the item from the agenda if necessary. Robin Dyos apologised, and this was accepted by the Chair.

Paul Webb continued that as Chair of the Safety Working Group, he tried to chair the meetings in a professional way, allowing members the opportunity to discuss in full items being considered. There will be an opportunity for others to take on the roles of Chair and Vice Chair at the next meeting if desired by the Group. Paul Webb also accepted the apology received from Robin Dyos.

The meeting had been convened to discuss the application for the 2022/2023 LHI, possible Privately Funded Initiative (PFI) for the solar powered, automatic, programmable, flashing school signs on Buntings Path, and the CIL funding earmarked for the village entrance gates in the sum of £5,000.

The original recommendation to Full Council agreed at the last Safety Group meeting was that an application for LHI funding should be submitted for the installation of solar powered, automatic, programmable, flashing school signs on Buntings Path, Ness Road, and the Causeway. This would be seven signs in total as a further sign should be considered for Silver Street.

CIL funding must be used to fund projects that result from the increase in population from new developments in the village. It is thought that the installation of the signs on Buntings Path would meet the criteria with new developments in Toyse Lane and future development on the Newmarket Road site.

Going down the PFI route should prove quicker and therefore finding a solution for Buntings Path earlier than applying for the signs for this road using LHI Funding. The provision of the sign in Buntings Path will form part of the Safety Campaign. The total cost for the signs in Buntings Path would be around £4200 plus £500 for a feasibility study to be carried out.

The general idea would be for the flashing signs to replace the standard signs on all three roads. It was suggested that a sign should also be installed in Newnham Lane. It was felt however that traffic volume was not high enough to require a sign.

Highways would need to complete a feasibility study prior to giving the go ahead for a PFI or moving an LHI application forward. Some issues may arise for example the trees blocking the sun for the solar powered batteries for the signs on the Causeway and the height of the hedge where the school sign is situated on Buntings Path and will have to be taken in consideration.

The total cost for all seven signs is likely to be in the region of £14,000.

Helen McMenamin-Smith informed the group that she felt that there was less need for the signs in the Causeway as there is already a pedestrian crossing. Robin Dyos said that Silver Street may not be

possible. The signs can be programmed for a set number of hours, and they can also be programmed to take into account school holidays. Liz swift questioned how the proposed signs will fit in with the 20's Plenty Campaign. However, little is known about the campaign at this stage.

The application process for the LHI is as follows:

- Application submitted (by 30th September 2021)
- Feasibility Study is carried out
- Outcome of Feasibility Study is reported back to Parish Council
- If Feasibility Study supports the application, Parish Council decides if they wish the application to continue to be considered for funding.
- Application is considered by Highways Advisory Panel with presentation of the scheme being made by a member of the Parish Council.
- Application scored
- Applications with highest scores awarded funding

Vehicle and pedestrian counts and information will be required to support the LHI application. Some of the information is already in hand and some group members have volunteered to collect the other data needed.

The Group unanimously agreed for the following recommendations to be made to Full Council on 24th August 2021:

The Group recommends that a Privately Funded Initiative application is made to Highways for the installation of two solar powered, automatic, programmable, flashing school signs in Buntings Path at a cost, including the Feasibility Study, of approx. £4712.00. That the installation is funded by using the CIL funding earmarked for the village gates, which are no longer required due to buffer zones being installed.

The Group recommends that a Local Highways Initiative application is made to Highways for the installation of solar powered, automatic, programmable, flashing school signs in Ness Road, the Causeway and Silver Street (5 in total) at an approx. cost of £10,200, with the Parish Council making a 30% contribution (in the region of £3,400).

Lea Dods raised concerns about safety within the Sports Centre car park when parents deliver and collect their children from school. This will be discussed at a further date. He also suggested that improved safety for school children may encourage more people to walk to school than drive.

Paul Webb informed the group that the next meeting would be held on 5th October at 11am at Mandeville Hall and not on 21st September as scheduled.

Jim Perry raised concern about dogs being allowed to defecate on sports pitches. Paul Webb stated that all safety related issues, such as this, should be part of the proposed Safety Campaign and asked Jim Perry to mention this again at the appropriate time.

The meeting closed at 10.45 am.

Signed

Dated

